

### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following amendment and remarks.

The application contains Claims 1-35. Claims 1, 11, 16, 24, and 29 have been amended to recite that the transformed images are displayed on a preset position of the display. Claims 31-35 have been added. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action dated October 31, 2007 presents the following issues. Claims 1, 3, 8, 16, 21, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,560, hereinafter "Nakajima"). Claims 2, 9-10, 17, 22-23, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No 5,640,462, hereinafter "Sato"). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Rougee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,446, hereinafter "Rougee"). Claims 5-7 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,080, hereinafter "Chen"). Claims 11 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Slack (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,432). Claims 12-15 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Slack and further in view of Sato.

For the reasons which follow, Applicant believes that this newly-added limitation is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

Turning to the newly-cited reference to Nakajima, the reference is directed to a method for adjusting pictures of radiation images. Nakajima discloses (Fig. 3) an X-ray image reading apparatus 10 an image processing and displaying apparatus 30. After the first X-ray image and the second X-ray image have been stored respectively on the first phosphor sheet 5 and the second phosphor sheet 7, the phosphor sheet 5 and the second phosphor sheet

7 are placed one after the other at a predetermined position on the X-ray read-out apparatus 10. The read-out apparatus includes the laser beam 17 which is reflected and deflected about a rotating polygon mirror 19. The image from sheet 5 is stored as a first image signal SO1 and the image from the second sheet 7 is stored as a second image SO2. The two image signals SO1 and SO2 is subjected to subtraction processing, and stored in a memory and display apparatus 30. As disclosed in Nakajima, at least two characteristic regions of interest are set in each of the X-ray images 4a, 4b as shown in Figure 2. In the image 4a regions of interest are set as template regions 8 and 8', and X-ray image 4b the regions of interest are set as reference positions 9 and 9'. The positions of the template regions are respectively matched to the positions of the reference numerals 9 and 9'. The coordinates in the first X-ray image are transformed by the affine transformation and the two X-rays are superimposed one on top of the other and are rotated, enlarged, or reduced etc. by the affine transformation (col. 14, lines 14-22 and 41-65).

Figures 7 and 8 show example of how X-ray image 14b is rotated, enlarged, or reduced and translated in parallel such that the position of the X-ray image 14b may coincide with the position of the X-ray image 14a. In the example of Figure 8, X-ray image 14b is rotated such that line I and line II have become parallel to each other. At this point, the X-ray image 14b may be rotated around any point such as the center of gravity 9c, the center of gravity 9d, or a point lying on the line II. In this manner, the positions of the two X-ray images 14a and 14b can be adjusted so they may coincide with each other. In this embodiment the positions of the X-ray image 14a is adjusted to match with the position of the X-ray image 14b.

In summary, from our review of Nakajima we find that the two X-ray images are superimposed and adjusted so that they may coincide with each other. Thus, although Nakajima discloses coordinates which rely on centers of gravity (col. 19, lines 18-43) and

which can be at the center of the image in some cases, we find no description of displaying the transformed images at a preset position on the display, as recited in each of Applicant's independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant believes that the independent claims are no longer anticipated by Nakajima. In addition, Applicant finds that no reference in the Official Action of any limitation in any of the other remaining references to Sato, Chen, and Slack, that would make up for the basic deficiencies of Nakajima.

With respect to Claims 31-35, the present invention brings about the advantageous effect that an observer does not have to move their eyepoint when observing a plurality of images, whereas Nakajima does not bring about such an advantageous effect. From all of the above, Applicant believes that each of the claims are now in condition for allowance and an early indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/07)